

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 23-29, 53, 54 and 56-58 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 56-58 are added.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-10, 23-29, 53 and 54 in the April 23 Notice of Allowability. Applicant submits that claims 56-58 also are allowable.

Applicant submits the following comments on the Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which was included with the April 23 Notice of Allowability.

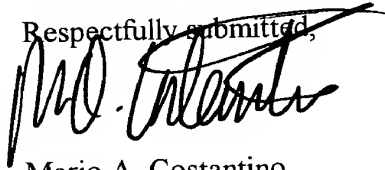
The Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance stated "the prior art of record fails to disclose of suggest 'importing the second object into the airtight chamber, wherein an inner wall of a member which forms the airtight stage chamber is formed of or coated with a material involving little gas release' in conjunction with the rest of the claimed subject matter."

Although the claim language quoted in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance is accurate with respect to independent claim 1, Applicant notes that independent claims 6 and 23 do not include all of the above-quoted words. In particular, independent claim 6 recites, inter alia, "adjusting a position of the second object with respect to the transport system on a contour basis in an airtight chamber in which the movable stage is located during the transport of the second object to the movable stage by the aid of the transport system, wherein an inner wall of a member which forms the airtight chamber is formed of or coated with a material involving little gas release", and independent claim 23 (which is an apparatus claim) recites, inter alia, "a transport system which is arranged in an airtight transport chamber, an inner wall of which is formed of or coated with a material involving little gas release, and which transports the second object onto the movable stage".

Thus, neither claim 6 nor claim 23 recites the step of "importing...".

Continued examination and allowance in due course are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/ccs

Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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